



**TESTIMONY
ROBERT MCVEIGH
CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION
(CASIA)
BEFORE THE
GAE COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2009**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) *opposes* HB-6375, which will eliminate the Electrical Examining Board which plays a vital role in overseeing and enforcing laws affecting electrical licenses.

Although the state Department of Consumer Protection does a tremendous job with the resources it has, the department lacks the resources, staff and expertise needed to strongly enforce the state's licensing laws.

Fortunately, the Electrical Examining Board, made up of volunteers from industry and the public, share their expertise in reviewing cases that come before them to enforce the laws. They also weigh in on limited licenses and determine whether such licenses are in the best interest of consumers and public safety. In addition, the board reviews and approves continuing education curriculum and providers to ensure that programs meet the needs of contractors and license holders in updating them on relevant changes in building codes, the National Electrical Code, OSHA, and other laws and regulations.

Contractors that do not abide by the regulations that govern their trade and who create potentially unsafe work environments should be punished. Those of us who have worked hard to promote the professionalism of the industry through licensure and continuing education support efforts to enhance enforcement by strengthening rather than eliminating the occupational licensing boards. This is also in the best interest of consumers.

CASIA therefore urges rejection of HB-6375. Thank you.

CASIA / Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association, established, in 1974, is a statewide trade association formerly known as the Connecticut Burglar and Fire Alarm Association / CBFAA. Dedicated to protecting lives and property through the responsible use of electronic security, fire and supervisory alarm systems, digital technologies have enabled member companies to offer enhanced services through integrated network systems.